

### Tim & Nancy Young



Tim and Nancy Young have wanted to be foster parents for a long time. As their children are getting older and moving out of the house. they have plenty of empty space and a lot of love to give. They both realize there are a lot of children in need and they want to help out in any way they can.

Tim and Nancy have 2 biological and 2 adopted children. They have had a total of 3 foster children placed with

them so far and 2 are still with them.

When asked, "what kind of advice would you give to foster parents"? Nancy responded, "get as much training as you can". Nancy believes a foster parent should have a support system, especially other foster parents, because no parent is perfect and their will always be some challenges. Nancy sums it by saying, "in the end, helping the kids will be an award in itself."

### **Contact Numbers:**

Waukesha H & HS 262-548-7212

Eve Altizer Children's Mental Health Outreach 262-548-7310

Crisis Mentoring Pager 414-848-6711

Medical Emergency; 911 Family Emergency: 211

Judy David Support Group President 414-671-3747 (home) 414-462-8446

Lisa Alden, Supervisor 262-548-7271

Shari Rather Foster Care Coordinator 262-548-7267

Amber Sparks Visitation Coordinator 262-896-6849

### **August '05 Placements**

Regular Foster Care:

69 Children

5 Admitted 7 Discharged

Treatment Foster Care:

28 Children

0 Admitted 0 Discharged

Group Homes:

7 Children

1 Admitted 1 Discharged

Residential Care Facilities:

7 Children

0 Admitted

2 Discharged

Relative Placements:

30 Children

1 Admitted

4 Discharged

### **Social Workers:**

**Bob Alioto** 

262-548-7262

Peggy Beisser

262-548-7261 Kathe Blum

262-548-7275

Barb Hufschmidt

262-548-7270 Margaret Johnson

262-548-7265

Suzanne Koberstein 262-548-7348

Elizabeth Russo

262-548-7349

Kim Sampson

262-548-7273 Linda Senger

262-548-7698

Marilyn Vidergar

262-548-7363 Ted Wuerslin

262-548-7269

Jennifer Wygle 262-548-7260

### We Need You!

For more information about becoming a foster parent in Waukesha County, please contact Shari Rather at:

srather@waukeshacounty.gov 262-548-7267 or visit our web-

www. waukeshacounty.gov and follow the links to foster

### We Welcome Newsletter Ideas!

Waukesha County Foster Care Forum is published monthly by the Department of Health and Human Services Please send your ideas and suggestions to: srather@waukeshacounty.gov 500 Riverview Ave. Waukesha 53188

**AUGUST 2005..** 

Preserving and Strengthening Families

Foster Care Forum

Waukesha Health & Human Services

500 Riverview Ave. Waukesha 53188

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• Strengthening Families continued.

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- Contacts

REMINDER: Foster Parent Round Table on November 1st, 5-9pm, at Steinhafel' Would you like to receive this newsletter via e-mail instead of mail? Please e-mail: srather@waukeshacounty.gov to complete this request. You can also find it online at www.waukeshacounty.gov

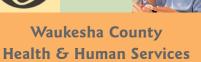
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OCTOBER 2005





# Foster Care Forum

## Preserving and Strengthening Family Attachments

On October 31st, 2005, a policy will be implemented that will raise the standards of interaction for families who have had a child removed from the home and placed in out-ofhome care. This policy on family interaction is designed to preserve and strengthen family attachments by presenting opportunities to maintain, establish and promote parent-child relationships. Additional purposes of family interaction include facilitating family reunification, enhancing parental protective capacities, increasing parental knowledge and skills, addressing safety and health concerns that may be present in the child's environment and meeting the child's basic developmental, emotional and attachment needs. Another purpose of the family interaction plan is to minimize any trauma or "self-blame" that a child may experience in the event that he/she is removed from the home.

The family interaction plan will extend interaction beyond the parent and child face-to-face meetings and will incorporate other significant relationships that the child has. These relationships may include, but are not limited to, siblings, grandparents and other extended family members, friends, teachers, neighbors, spiritual com-

munities and so on. The child placed out of the home will be able to maintain significant relationships that may have been neglected otherwise. The non-custodial parents will also be able to attend routine appointments (i.e. doctor appointments) and special events (i.e. school plays) in the child's life. The form of family interaction will also broaden beyond face-to-face meetings to also include phone calls, letter writing, and e-mailing. According to the new family interaction plan children should have this form of family interaction with their parents weekly.

When a child has been placed in out-of-home care the agency must arrange for the first face-to-face meeting between the child and the parent within 5 days of the initial removal. After consultation with the biological parents, the out-of-home care provider and the children (when appropriate) the agency and its workers will be responsible for devising a plan for family interaction. The family interaction plan will detail the logistics of the parent/child interactions and who will attend the face-to-face visits. Included in the family interaction plan will be a description of the parent's responsibilities to initiate and maintain interaction and will

that many hinder interaction from occurring on a regular basis. Family interaction should occur frequently if attachments are to be maintained between parents and their children. As a minimum standard a child should see his/her parent no less than once a week. Family interaction plans will change over time with considerations to the child's safety and well-being. If reunification is the goal family interactions will increase in frequency and length and should become less restrictive, as safety concerns are resolved. Parents have a right to see their children, however, the interaction can be suspended or placed on hold if it is no longer in the best interests of the child or if the visits compromise the health and safety of the child. Interaction can also be suspended if a parent repeatedly fails to meet the standards described by the family interaction plan, thus showing a lack of parental concern for the child.

also address any barriers or issues

How does this new family interaction plan affect children who have been placed out of the home? The family interaction plan was designed to reduce some of the trauma and stress that can be experienced by children when they

## lesse's Corner

3rd month
of writing
"Jesse's Corner" and
I have so much information to share that I don't
know where to start! Anyway,
here I go:

As many of you know the State of
Wisconsin participated in the federal review of
Child Welfare (child protection cases-in-home and
out of home cases) in 2003. Since Wisconsin failed
the review they were required to submit a Program
Enhancement Plan (PEP) to the Federal government to
address the areas/issues needing improvement. The PEP
was approved and has been implemented for the last year.
There are numerous statewide committees working on the
PEP. As part of that PEP there is a continuous quality
improvement process. For most of the counties in the
state, Wisconsin will be using the Quality Service Review
(QSR) process. We held our first meeting on September
7th. The QSR reviewers will be evaluating 12 randomly

selected cases of which 6 will be in home cases and 6 will be out of home cases. The families will be contacted and will be asked to participate. Since this is voluntary review, par-

The QSR reviewers will be evaluating 12 randomly selected cases. Since this is voluntary review, parents can choose to participate or not.

ents can choose to participate or not, (we have an over sample of cases and will select another family if needed). If your foster child is selected, you/your family will be interviewed as part of the review. Your social worker will be contacting you to schedule a date, time and place for the interviews. These interviews will be scheduled during the week of the QSR review, which is scheduled for the week of December 5th. In addition to the case specific review, the QSR process will interview stakeholders. Since you're one of our valued stakeholders we will be scheduling a focus group for foster parents. We'll try to schedule this meeting so that most of you can attend since your input and feedback is very important! The results of the QSR will be shared with everyone once it's finalized and we'll keep you posted as needed.

In addition to the QSR, the Waukesha County Juvenile Court will participate in the Court Improvement Project during that same week. It's anticipated that foster parents will be invited to participate in this project as well. We'll try to schedule the QSR and Court Improvement Project focus groups one right after another so it doesn't inconvenience you or your family.

Just a reminder that the Foster Parent Roundtable Meeting will be held on November 1st from 5pm to 9pm at Steinhafel's. Topics include: Shared Parenting and Attachment Therapy-Dr. Mary Hess. I encourage everyone to attend, as this should be a very informative meeting. Remember this is YOUR meeting to address YOUR issues/concerns so please try to make it!

As mentioned about the State has many committees working on the Program Enhancement Plan (PEP). Included in this month's newsletter is an article about the Family Interaction Plan (page I and continued below) . I encourage you to read it and provide feedback to your social worker. I have more to write but not enough space so I'll save those issues/thoughts until next month. Enjoy October!

## Preserving and Strengthening Families

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are removed from their parent's home. Ideally, with increased interaction with their parents, family and friends, children will experience less anxiety or fantasies about "bad things" happening to them, their siblings and their parents. The family interaction plan will also help the child to maintain significant relationships and friendships that they had prior to being placed out of the home.

How does the new family interaction plan affect non-custodial parents? It gives them a chance to enhance their parenting knowledge and skills. The family interaction plan also helps the parent move towards reunification and most importantly, it gives parents the chance to maintain and create loving healthy attachments with their children. How does the new family interaction plan affect the

healthy attachments with their children. How does the new family interaction plan affect the out of home care provider? Family interaction plans will mean that the children will spend a greater amount of time visiting with non-custodial parent/s, siblings and extended family/friends. Increased family interaction will mean an increased need of transportation for children and the agency will be looking to the foster parent/s to help with the provision of those rides. The family interaction plan also may mean that there will be increased phone calls from the parent/s for the child, and vice versa. The family interaction plans will require all parties involved in the life of the child to be more flexible with their schedules and the support of the foster parent/s is essential to making family interaction plans work.

## Social Worker Spotlight



Suzie Koberstien
1. Personal Information:
(marriage, kids, pets, hobbies)

I am married to Gary and we just bought a house on Upper Nemahbin Lake. It is small but we love it and it is taking up all our time so there is no time to enjoy our boat.

We have four children who are all out on their own. Amanda who is in love with her horse and horse showing when she can. Jayson and his wife Diane just made us grandpar-

ents to a beautiful baby girl named Kayla. Jessica who is blind and very active with her church. Our youngest, Jennifer just got married and is attending college in Utha.

My husband was in foster care and really enjoyed it and I believe that is why he is so supportive of my job in Permanency Services. Gary was in foster care with Janis Davis, her nick name was "Kitty". He really had a good time with her and enjoyed having a good home with her and because of his experience we really respect the work that foster parents do. Having this first hand experience with foster care I believe it makes me do my best to make sure that foster parents, parents and children get the attention necessary to meet their needs.

Gary is thankful for the time he had in foster care and it really changed his life for the better! My husband totally respects the county system for giving the parents another chance and completely respects foster parents for everything they do, taking the children on the spot and getting them medical attention and parenting the children when they need it the most! On a scale of I to I0 my husband gives foster parents a I0 and so do I! There are no words to express how much we appreciate the work that goes into being a foster parent .

Our hobbies are boating, fishing, TIVO, gardening, IPOD, campfires in our backyard and of course home improvement.

- 2. Educational Background: I graduated from Cardinal Stritch College with a BS and had a double major in Psychology and Philosophy.
- 3. Work Experience: (length at Waukesha, how long working as a social worker, areas worked in) This will be my 8th year with Waukesha County. Prior experience includes 7 years working in Milwaukee County Child Protective Services in the area of Intake Investigation. Previous Counties were Racine and Zion,IL.
- 4. What brings you the greatest joy as a social worker? Why did you become a social worker? I wish I had E.S.P. and could make every case have a happy ending but unfortunately I don't so I keep on working within the system to the best of my ability. My goal is to give a child a secure and happy home, either through reunification or adoption. Knowing that the child is safe is the ultimate goal of each child that comes into my case load.
- 5. Additional Comments: The impact that foster parenting had on my husband was a tremendously positive force with a life long impact. Gary and I would like all foster parents to know this and thank you for the valuable work you do.

## **Kid Prints**

### August 2005 Picture of the Month:



Titled: Home by Zaw, Age 15
In placement for 16 months. "This picture is about my whole family."

## Here's how to get a picture in the Foster Care Forum Newsletter:

- You must be a foster child to enter (ages 1-19).
- Work submitted must be on white paper, no bigger than 8.5 x 11 inches.
- Deadline to submit: the 15th of every month (for the following month's edition).
- If your child's picture is chosen, it will be in a contest held at the end of the year for an award!
- You can enter up to one picture per month.
- Please send the entry form and artwork to Shari Rather in Health and Human Services: 500 Riverview Ave. Waukesha, WI 53188

Submit this by August 15, for	a chance to be in the Sept. publication.
Entry Form	Date:
Child's Name:	
Foster Family's Address:	
Age:	Title of Artwork:
How long have them been in placement?	
Why they drew this picture:	